

# Health Agency Gets New Chapter

By HALLIE BOYLES  
Democrat Staff Writer

A new chapter is beginning in the history of the Leon County Health Department which has operated continuously longer than any other in Florida.

The agency will close the doors of its present building Tuesday and will reopen in the new half million dollar facility Friday.

The ramshackle structure at the southwest corner of Gaines and Gadsden streets, with some equipment that was made by WPA workers, is being abandoned. In fact, the building itself was a 1940 WPA project that cost about \$18,500, including some \$12,000 in federal funds. The site has been acquired by the State for capitol center expansion.

The new Health Department home at the corner of Municipal Way and Appleyard Drive, represents \$430,000 in building and equipment, including 55 per cent federal and 45 per cent county funds.

## Leon County Health Department Will Move To New Building In City Governmental Complex At Airport

The building is a part of the city-county government complex located on the site of the old municipal airport.

Already located in the area or to be built there are the Juvenile Detention Center, the new County Jail, area Boy Scout headquarters, the Tallahassee Junior College and the area vocational - technical center.

The 18,000 square foot Health Department building has a two - story center section with a one - story wing at each end. The wings are designed for future second floors as need arises.

The first floor will house the administration, X-ray and immunizing areas, patient

examination and treatment area, an assembly room with 60 seats and a library adjoining.

About one third of the second floor will house the sanitation staff and dental suite with the rest of the floor devoted to mental health facilities.

Dr. Clifford G. Blitch, county health director, said the new building will provide about one - third more space than the present building and will provide modern equipment.

New equipment includes up to date examining tables, sterilizing facilities, X-ray machine and adequate storage for drugs

and medicines. The dental suite is equipped with the latest type of dental chair, X-ray machine and other needs.

Dr. Blitch said a dental hygienist will be employed in the next few months to carry on dental education among school children and to examine children in the Health Department clinics. Children found to need dental care will be referred to private dentists.

The mental health area will provide a separate room for training graduate students (a program carried out in cooperation with Florida State University) in mental health.

There will be a child observation room where children at play can be observed through a one - way glass without their knowledge. An intercommunication system will also permit their voices to be heard.

Installed on the roof, readily accessible to the sanitation offices, will be radiological monitoring equipment and air pollution monitoring equipment.

Dr. Blitch said the building is expected to take care of needs of the Health Department for several years to come.

The building will be dedicated, possibly in June. The County Commission has named a committee, with Dr. Blitch as chairman, to plan the dedication and open house.

The Health Department began in 1931 as a "county health office" with Dr. L. J. Graves as the first "health officer."

Taylor County had opened the first health office in 1930 but it was not operated in 1933 through 1935.

The first form of public health activity began in Leon County in 1889 with work of quarantine agents directed by J. Louis Horsey, then assistant state health officer, and continued to 1894.

Dr. H. E. Palmer coped with public health problems as "sanitary agent" until 1902. Dr. Charles M. Ausley filled the role to 1906. Then came a succession of health officers working under the State Board of Health, including Dr. F. Clifton Moor, Dr.

(Continued on Page 3D)

## Opening Friday...

The Health Department at Gaines and Gadsden streets will be closed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and will reopen Friday at 8 a.m. in the new building at Municipal Way and Appleyard Drive, on the site of the old airport.

Regular clinics will begin at the new building Friday on the same schedule as in the past.

City Transit bus service will be provided from the corner of Monroe street and Park avenue, beginning at 7:15 a.m. Friday and leaving every hour at 15 minutes after the hour.

Returning buses will leave the new building beginning at 7:30 a.m. and throughout the day on the half hour. The last bus will leave downtown for the new building at 6:15 p.m. and the last bus will leave the new building for downtown at 6:30 p.m. There will be

no 3:15 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. bus, however.

Fare will be 20 cents each way or 17 cents by tickets which may be purchased for \$1.70 per strip. City or county school or university students may purchase 10 tickets for \$1.

Buses will take the following route to the new Health Department building: leave Monroe and Park avenue, proceed on College avenue to Copeland street, to Pensacola street, to Jefferson, to Pensacola, and on Pensacola to Appleyard Drive.

The return route will be: Appleyard Drive to Jackson Bluff road, to Ausley road, to Belleview Way to Rivoli road to Pensacola, to Jefferson, to Copeland, to College and to the point of beginning.

The Health Department telephone number will remain 224-0181.

